WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Founded December 19, 1857 MARCH-APRIL 1978

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We regretted very much having to cancel our Maple Sugar Tour and brunch.

When we saw the icy conditions of the roads and terrain Saturday morning, we immediately checked with the local police department and the state police.

When I explained to the State Police what we had planned, I was told very bluntly "Don't get all of those people out on the highways, we have all the accidents we can handle." At that time the word over the radio was that the ice storm was moving up from Toledo and that already parts of I-75 and I-94 were closed.

I felt that for the safety of our members that the tour should be cancelled and advised our vice president, Leigh Anderson, to notify all members by phone that the tour was cancelled.

A few of those who signed up for the tour could not be reached by phone, and I am very sorry for any inconvenience you encountered.

Jewel Reynolds, who has served as refreshments chairperson for meetings for two years is resigning effective July 1, 1978. She has done a fine job and we appreciate all of the time and effort she has contributed to the WCHS.

Our new membership chairperson, Mrs. Lyndon (Ange) Welch, has been doing a splendid job. She and her group have obtained 61 new members through a mailing early this year and plan a second mailing in May.

Thomas F. Lacy

ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY; STUART THAYER TO SPEAK

The WCHS Board of Directors voted to hold the annual meeting of the society in conjunction with the May program.

Stuart Thayer, curator of WCHS collections, will speak at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 25, in Liberty Hall about some of the many interesting items in storage awaiting the day when there will be a museum in which to display them. The meeting will follow.

GOING FOR A WALK? HERE'S A HANDY GUIDE

It's Spring and Preservation Week is coming May 14-21. The Ann Arbor Historical Foundation suggests those are two good reasons to explore local streets with their paperback guidebook *Historic Buildings, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

The 112-page handbook has 80 photographs, four area maps and brief descriptions of seventy marked structures. It may be purchased in local bookstores and at Kempf House, 312 S. Division Street, or by mail. See order coupon page 7.

POPULATION PROBLEM

The item headed "Can You Date This?" on page 4 of the February issue of *The Impressions* saying "This matter of population has already became one of the most perplexing political problems of the time . . . " appeared in the Friday, June 13, 1879, issue of *The Ann Arbor Courier.*

The original article by S. H. Preston was copied from the *New York Physiologist*. The promised following article on how to limit children apparently never appeared in *The Courier.*

Courier in Michigan Historical Collections, U-M Bentley Library.

MICHIGAN IN ICE AGE TO BE APRIL 27 TOPIC: DR. G. R. SMITH TO TALK

Discovery of mastodon bones in Washtenaw County a year or so ago prompted Vice-President Leigh Anderson to schedule a program on Michigan in the Ice Age.

He first invited Dr. Gerald R. Smith, director of the U-M museum of paleontology and associate curator of the museum of zoology, to speak at the January meeting but the "Blizzard of '78" forced postponement.

Dr. Smith will speak at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at Liberty Hall at Great Lakes Federal Savings (formerly Ann Arbor Federal), Liberty and Division Streets, Ann Arbor.

Dr. Smith will give a slide-illustrated talk about Michigan 10,000 years ago when mastodons, caribou, musk-oxen and giant beaver roamed. His topic is "Ice Age Animals and Environments in Michigan."

He has been involved in collection of several mastodons and other fossils in Michigan and is interested in using past animal and plant distributions as indicators of prehistoric climates.

The speaker received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Utah and his doctorate from Michigan. His main research interest has been the evolution and ecology of fresh water fishes.

ARCHIVIST WILL SPEAK

State Archivist David Olson will talk about the Michigan State Archives at the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County meeting at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at Washtenaw Community College. An individual help session is planned at 1 p.m.

HIGHWAY WELL LOCATED BUT HARDLY SUPER!

Grazing animals and Indians played a part in locating the old Chicago Road, now US-12 or Michigan Avenue, across southern Michigan and they did exceptionally well with it.

That opinion was expressed by Herbert H. Bartlett, a retired highway engineer who has worked for all levels of government including the Michigan State Highway Department and the Washtenaw County Road Commission. He has spent thousands of hours locating and mapping the Great Sauk Trail and the old Chicago Road which followed the trail approximately though not completely.

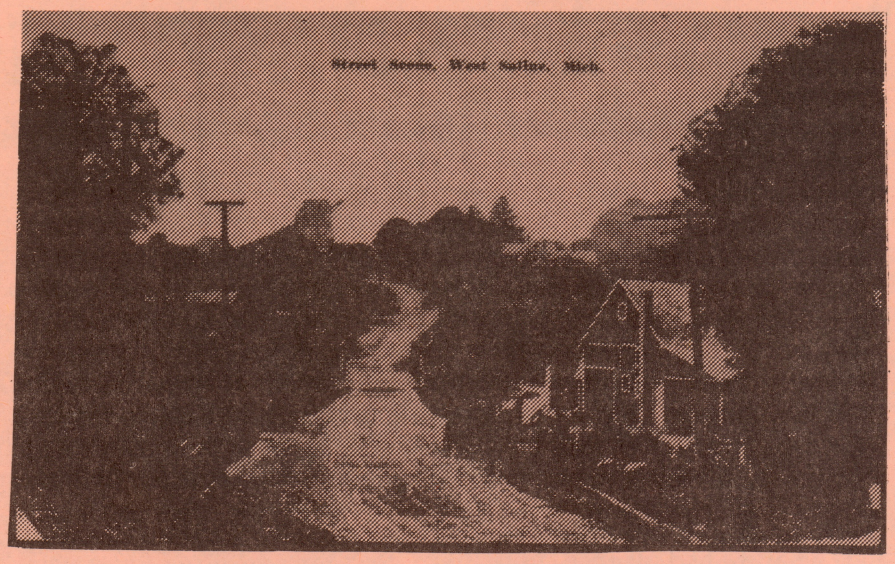
Bartlett spoke at the February WCHS meeting about the trail and early military road laid out in 1825, twelve years before Michigan became a state. He illustrated his talk with large-scale U.S. Geological Survey maps on which he has traced the whole route. He worked from copies of Farmer's engravings of the survey route and carefully transferred it to the larger scale maps with the aid of his "trusty" slide rule.

His account suggests that the road was not a lot better than the trail. Instead of potholes and such things as the Zilwaukee Bridge on I-75, travelers on the old Chicago road had to dodge stumps in the right of way and couldn't ford around the Calumet River mouth near Chicago when the waves were high on Lake Michigan.

From a smaller scale map, he pointed out how the Great Sauk Trail was a link in a transcontinental system of trails from Quebec to the Pacific Coast.

The trail from Quebec down the north bank of the St. Lawrence River and to Detroit was called the Montreal Trail. Travelers could cross anywhere along the Detroit or St. Clair Rivers and find connecting trails, he said.

The Sauk Trail ran across southern Michigan, around the foot of Lake Michigan and to the Mississippi near Moline, Illinois. There travelers could choose one of several trails to the west coast, all part of the same transcontinental system, he said.



Courtesy Saline Area Historical Society Archives

This is the old Chicago Road, now US-12, as it went west out of Saline past the old Schuyler Mills (now Weller's), about 1911. Much of the road didn't look this good in earlier years Bartlett says. In some places, the stumps were not even all removed from the roadway.

Concernig the "foot" of Lake Michigan, he noted that the French called the southern end of Lake Michigan the "head" because they were looking at it from the Soo.

Another disconcerting thing from our viewpoint is that Upper Canada is Ontario. It's upstream, up the St. Lawrence River. Windsor is in "Upper Canada".

"I have never been able to satisfy myself as to where the Great Sauk Trail got its name, but it was obviously named by white people. I think it was because it penetrated into Sauk country on the other side of the Mississippi River and the Sauks used it for their forays into the eastern part of the country when they were under attack at various times by the Iroquois or perhaps others.

"You might say they were war trails. Later they had the white man for a whipping boy, but long before the white man got here, the Indians were running each other off their hunting grounds. If they wanted it and had enough people to take it, they did. I don't think they have too much to blame the white man because they were doing the same thing among themselves."

The first known location of the Sauks was around Saginaw, which got its name from a corruption of "Sauk". The Sauks, not an especially large nation, moved around a lot as other Indians did. Later they were in Iowa.

The Sauk Trail was not just one trail, he believes, but a corridor of trails. An Indiana farmer once stood and pointed out exactly where his grandfather told him the Sauk Trail went. He was probably right, Bartlett said, but so were others who pointed out other locations.

Using his maps, Bartlett traced the old Chicago Road from its beginning at Grand Circus Park in Detroit to Chicago. While it follows the Sauk Trail approximately, it isn't anywhere near as closely as some writers on the subject claim it did, he said. Sometimes it was

a mile off, however, the people who located it used good judgement, he said.

You can also see in the history of the Chicago Road all the politics — all of the pulling and hauling that goes into a public works project, he said.

The road follows out Michigan Avenue, along the Rouge River to Wayne and to Ypsilanti through the old lake bottom, he noted. Michigan Avenue hasn't been changed. It's a fairly even route. You couldn't ask for much better.

The old lake bottom was heavily forested. I presume the original wheel tracks of the wagons going through there on the trail must have been crooked as a snake because they avoided trees, roots, etc. The trail varies in this section from the later road.

As far as the Chicago Road, you have the surveyed route, then you have the route that was built. The builders didn't always follow the surveyors. Finally, you have the route the traffic took, especially around LaPorte, Indiana.

They had already established a pretty good route in Indiana — they didn't have to go everywhere the surveyor told them to. They took off across the prairie where they wanted to.

Then, too, Tecumseh was off the surveyed route. The stagecoaches had a lot of passengers who wanted to go there, so they turned off at Saline and came back to the Chicago Road at Cambridge Junction over another Indian trail. They took the stage route, so to speak. There was another detour at Coldwater, he noted.

Back at Ypsilanti, he noted the trail went along the original course of the Huron River which is now submerged in two artificial lakes (Belleville and Ford Lakes).

"I think the first mill west of Detroit was in what is now one of these lakes. Although I have not completed my research on that, I think it was where the old lake beach intersected the river. That was a shallow place with a swift current. I think they had just a

Courtesy of Herbert H. Bartlett

Herb Bartlett, 87, was a waterboy on this sewer project on East Chicago Street, Coldwater, in the early 1900's. White oak logs, originally put in a low place on the right-of-way of the old Chicago road, were uncovered. Workman is unidentified.

simple surface wheel of slightly different construction than the regular undershot wheel.

Concerning the survey, the government had decided it was desirable to have a military road from Fort Wayne in Detroit to Fort Dearborn in Chicago. They hired commissioners. I have found several roads that had one or more of the same commissioners, so I think that they had an "in" with the government.

The three commissioners for the Chicago Road were James McClosky, Jonah Baldwin and Laureat Durocher. The commissioners went out with horses and wagons and decided where the road should go.

They hired Orange Risdon to do the actual survey — run the lines, set out the stakes, blaze the trees and so on. He was a very well-known and talented surveyor, originally from New York state.

The contracts for building it were let out in quarter-mile sections, sometimes to farmers along the way. Some builders did as little as possible to allow a wagon to pass. They didn't even get all the stumps out of the middle of the road.

"I have another map here — a copy of Farmer's engravings of a few of the original notes. After the survey was completed, the original notes were put in an iron box and sent to Washington D.C. In the course of time, Washington sent them to a U.S. engineer's office in Chicago, just in time to be destroyed in the Chicago fire.

"Now if you think locating that route was a simple matter without those notes — I spent months on it. One very serious error on the survey was that they did not tie the course of the road into the land survey. There was only one section corner in the whole 220 miles of road. There was nothing to go by except stream crossings.

"When they crossed a stream, anywhere from the St. Joseph River to a little brook, they noted it."

By locating those stream crossings on the geological survey maps, I could match them up with stream crossings on the survey. That was the only thing to go by. It violated every rule of survey but there was no other recourse because the notes were destroyed.

"Another thing I had to contend with — they used a chain that was not strictly accurate. Those old surveyor's chains had a way of stretching. Because of that you get a number of blank spots, and stream crossings and milestones don't always jibe."

In Bridgewater township, the survey route left the Sauk Trail and went up to what was later known as Raisin Basin. There was a natural pond there and I think that Risdon must have pointed out it was a good location for a mill. The survey route returned to the Sauk Trail just before it entered the Irish Hills.

"Now there was a very prominent man down in Tecumseh who wanted the road to go through

there. He was related to an Army general in Washington and he brought influence to bear.

He didn't succeed but they split the difference and moved the road down to Clinton. "That's more political skullduggery that took place even before the road was built."

They had problems in the Irish Hills. Incidentally, if you know where to look, you can see the course of the original road. There is one place where it goes through a farmyard and the farmer's wife has her clothesline on the course of the old road.

In Hillsdale County, east of Quincy near the Branch County line, was an old tavern building of special interest to me. At one time my great-grandfather Hall was the proprietor.

It has recently been restored. I had the privilege of going through it. It had hand-split laths and joists of sapling. It was a mess to see the construction of it, but it stands there today, after 140 years or so, just as sound as it ever was. The two-story former tavern on the north side of the road is now painted canary yellow with brown trim.

"At Coldwater, where I was born and raised, if you go up in the cemetery, you can see from there why they went where they did — it was the logical place to locate a road."

The road goes by the old Fisk mansion "I used to go out there and run around the quarter-mile track where 'Dan Patch,' the famous turn-of-the-century trotting horse, raced."

Beyond Coldwater the road turns southwestward through Sturgis to White Pigeon and the state line.

"When they got the road built to the state line, President Jackson stopped it. Indiana had already been admitted to the union and he established a policy that no federal funds would be appropriated for use in states that were already organized. Those states had to build their own roads."

Indiana surveyors used the survey but the roads were farm and market roads, not through roads. The road went down to LaPorte. It left the Sauk Trail in a good many instances.

The literal Hoosiers did not want to have anything to do with the French, so they changed the name "LaPorte" to "Door". It was later changed back.

The reason for the name came from this situation: The area is largely prairie but nearby there were two arms of a forest which almost came together. The prairie opening between them was "la porte". It was only a few rods across. The Sauk Trail went through that opening and crossed into Illinois at the little town of Dyer.

"From my observation, Indians were not fond of traveling in the forest — there was too much they couldn't see. They liked to skirt along the edge of the forest where they could see out but others couldn't see them," he said.

The Chicago Road digressed from the trail and was located south of "the door". It went near Chesterton, Indiana, and thence to the Lake Michigan beach.

Near Chesterton was the historic Bailley Trading Post. Bailley was an up - and - coming fur trader from the Soo to New Orleans. His log house, now covered with clapboards, and the old fur sheds are still there. The state of Indiana is restoring them.

A relative of the Bailleys, Frances R. Howe, has written a book about the trading post, *The Story of A French Homestead in the Old Northwest.* It is published by the Duneland Historical Society of Chesterton.

The Chicago Road stayed on the beach, then unencumbered with Gary and Whiting. The beach near the water was like pavement, although just back of the beach it was practically impassable.

The survey followed the beach all the way around to Chicago and Fort Dearborn, crossing the Calumet River. The river meanders around and has two mouths. It is mostly swamp and it carried quite a load of silt into Lake Michigan where it formed a moon-shaped reef.

The river was so deep that emigrants and stage coaches couldn't cross it. Using a little Yankee ingenuity, they waded out to this reef and followed it around the mouth of the river until they got back where they could wade back to shore again. When the waves were high, they were stuck.

The book about the Bailley trading post tells of all the Indians who went through the front yard on their way to collect annuities at Fort Malden south of Windsor, Ontario, at Amherstburg.

The British thought that if they retained the friendship of the Indians they might regain the territory. As you know, it didn't work.

It's remarkable how well the trail is located. It always follows the sunny side of any ridge where the sun will melt the snow and dry out the ground first.

Some student reports he has seen tell how the trail always followed the watersheds. The shoreline of a river is not a watershed, he noted, but it followed the best, shortest practical route. When it did follow a watershed there was a reason for it — the fewest number of streams to cross, the land higher and dryer, etc.

Early settlers used the trail before the road was built. They said there was so much traffic on the trail that at times the horses of one team had their noses over the tailgate of the wagon ahead.

He had copies of other maps, including one of Michigan especially for German settlers, and the first map he knows of that shows the Sauk Trail. It is of Marquette's route from Lake Michigan down the Mississippi to New Orleans and back. On his return he followed a portion of the trail. The rather odd looking map was prepared from information supplied by Marquette on his return.

AH-H-H MAPLE SYRUP
Sutherlands Make It Right In Their Own Yard

Few would associate Washtenaw County, center of higher education, space and computer research and industry with the making of one of the oldest forest products discovered by the Indians—maple syrup—but it can be and is made here.

In earlier years a number of farmers with hard maples in their woodlots made syrup and sugar, some of them on a commercial scale. Nowadays only a few persons make it here, mostly as a hobby. WCHS had planned to visit one of these operations Saturday, March 25, but the trip was canceled at the last minute because of warnings of an approaching ice storm.

Roger and Mary Sutherland of 5488 Warren Road, Superior township, who make syrup on a small scale in their yard as a family hobby, planned to discuss and demonstrate syrup making.

Photo by Jack Stubbs

Anne Sutherland (a few years ago) tasting sap as it comes from the tree. In background Peter (bending), Ellen and Steve.

When the Sutherlands built their new home in the country in the mid-sixties they found several large maple trees which had been planted there in a row many years ago. Also nearby was an eyesore—the ruins of an old stone basement of a former house, filled to overflowing with junk with a fairly good sized tree growing in the center of it.

They worked all summer in spare hours taking trailerload after trailerload to the dump until the amazed attendant there asked, "Where is all this coming from?" Along with old refrigerators, TV dinner trays and Wesson oil cans was a lot of molten glass from when the old house burned.

After much labor they turned the old basement dump into what is probably unique in maple syrup boiling places—a sunken wildflower garden and patio with roof-sheltered fireplace.

They had never made syrup before. For their first attempt they used a copper washboiler on a metal stand and built a fire under it. A windstorm came along and blew the whole thing over.

Then they built a chimney and roof over a corner of the basement and got an old wood cookstove from Mary's folks. More recently they have extended the roof and built a fireplace especially adapted to boiling sap. They boil in a 20-quart flat pan of stainless steel. They hope to add a second pan next year to make better use of the heat.

From their study and experience, the Sutherlands wrote an article, "Maple Syrup—A Family Project," which appeared in the *Michigan Botanist* in January 1975.

In the article they quote Henry R. Schoolcraft who described the spring ritual as "a sort of Indian carnival . . . a season of hilarity and feasting" in *The Indian Tribes of the United States*, 1884.

The Indians used pots of birch bark or hollowed out logs and made the sap boil by throwing in red-hot stones. Another report in *The Maple Sugar Book*, 1970, by Helen and Scott Nearing, says Indians sometimes converted sap to syrup by allowing the sap to freeze overnight and throwing off the ice which reportedly leaves concentrated syrup.

(The Nearings however have found that sap ice probably contains about one-fourth as much sugar as unfrozen sap.)

While early settlers learned the technique from the Indians they invented many innovations. They found that boring holes and inserting spiles instead of gashing the trees as the Indians had was much less wasteful. Use of iron kettles and sap buckets of wood or metal also increased the efficiency of the operation.

To early settlers maple sugar was a godsend. Cane sugar was imported and expensive. It was produced mostly by slave labor to which some persons conscientiously objected. Further the political

break with England intensified the colonists' desire to be self-sufficient, the Nearings note. The colonists could make their own maple sugar in their own backyard.

Maple sugar was the standard sweetener of many in this country until about 1885 when cane sugar began to undersell maple, according to the Nearings. After that emphasis in maple production shifted more to syrup. Maple production generally declined after 1918.

Michigan has generally ranked fourth or fifth in annual production in recent years behind Vermont, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania and ahead of New Hampshire.

A 1970 report from the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station on Lower Peninsula syrup production said "In 1949, nearly 3,000 farms in 68 Lower Peninsula counties realized some income from maple syrup, but between 1949 and 1964 the number dropped to 810 farms in 63 counties."

The 1970 report predicted possible further drop although the Sutherlands think renewed interest in early Americana, natural foods and such may stimulate interest.

Irvin McFarland, area forester, says potential for maple syrup production in Michigan is great, especially in northern parts of the state. The U.S. Government *Maple Sirup Producers Manual* says Michigan has one-fifth the total stand of maple trees in the U.S.

"Of the several species of maple trees growing in Michigan, the two most commonly selected for sap are sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and black maple (*Acer nigrum*). Sap may also be obtained from red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), but the sap has lower sugar content and yields an inferior grade of syrup, especially after the buds swell, the Sutherlands note. The latter two species bud earlier than the former two.

However, the silver maple is sometimes tapped early because its sap flows more freely than the sugar maple at first. The box elder (*Acer negundo*) is also reported suitable for syrup but the Sutherlands have had no experience with them.

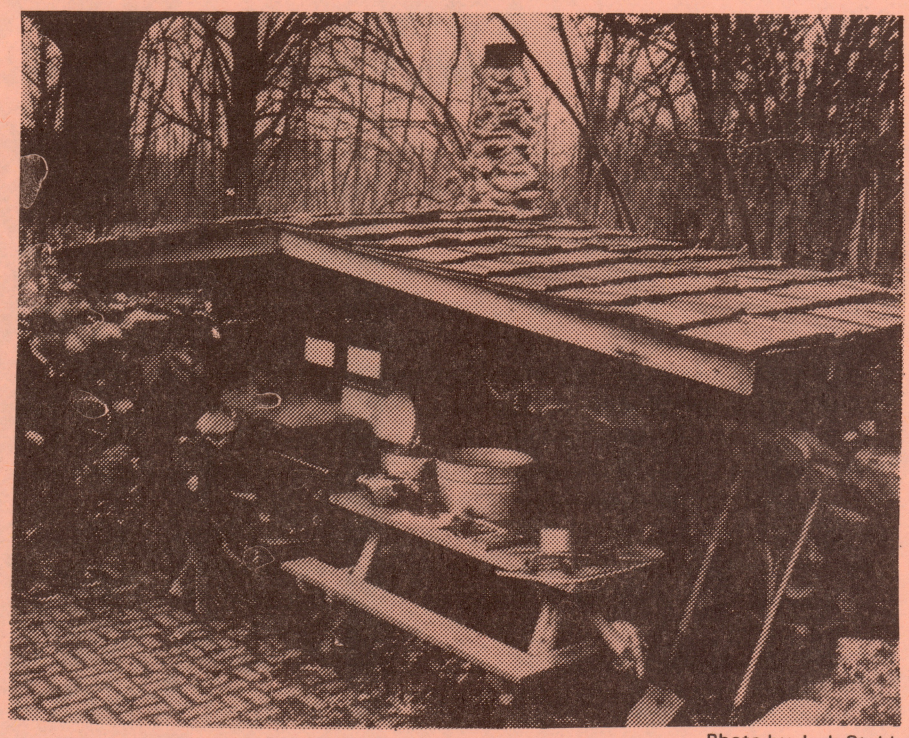


Photo by Jack Stubbs

Sutherlands boiled down sap on an old cookstove in their sunken patio. They now have extended the roof around the corner and boil on a fireplace. Shown (left to right) are Steve with Mr. Sutherland and Peter stoking the fire.

Within the sugar maple species, there is a wide variation in sugar content from one percent to as much as 12 percent. Tree genetics, size of crown, height, age, seasonal conditions and general health of the tree all probably contribute, they believe.

The Sutherlands advise choosing trees with a trunk diameter of at least 10 inches three feet above the ground, some say 12 inches diameter. Such a tree would take one tap. One additional tap may be made for each six inch increase in diameter.

While overtapping may harm a tree, some trees have been tapped in certain commercial sugar bushes almost continually for 150 years with the trees still showing growth, the Sutherlands noted.

Maple trees will produce sap flow anytime after they have lost their leaves until well into spring each time a period of freezing is followed by a period of thawing, government researchers have found.

The Sutherlands like to tap before the first thaw of spring, because the first run is the best. One year they got sap in late January but it is more common in February or March. This year their first flow was March 14.

The tap should be located at a spot on the trunk about two to four feet above the ground. Drill a hole with a 7/16 or 1/2 inch bit approximately two to three inches deep, on a slightly upward angle to facilitate flow. Taps on the south side tend to produce more sap.

Collection spouts called "spiles" are inserted and tapped lightly into the holes. Spiles may be purchased or made from hollow sumac or elderberry stems, they suggest. Where plastic tubing is used, a special plastic tap is used.

Collection containers can be any type of bucket or plastic bag. If open buckets are used, they should be covered to exclude rain and debris. The Sutherlands improvised covers from large squares of plastic secured with

heavy-duty rubber bands. Commercial producers use galvanized covers.

Sap does not flow every day during the season. The flow varies greatly with weather variation and tree differences. Best flow will occur on days that rapidly warm above freezing in the early morning following a below freezing night, they find. A single tap hole during an excellent flow period may produce one to two gallons of sap per day.

Ordinarily, sap should be collected and boiled down as soon as possible to produce the highest quality syrup because bacterial and fungal growth occurs in sap allowed to stand, especially in warmer weather, they advise.

Maple sap at the time of collection is a clear colorless solution, of one to three percent sugar usually, and will not taste anything like maple syrup. Since maple syrup requires a minimum of 65 percent sugar concentration, from thirty to forty gallons of sap will be necessary to yield one gallon of the finished product.

Making maple syrup from sap is essentially concentrating the solution to a predetermined level through evaporation, usually by boiling. (A freezing process is outlined by George R. Lightsey in *Mother Earth News*, 1974, "Maple Syrup the Cool Way.")

In commercial operation the sap is taken to a "sugar house" where it is boiled in a series of large shallow evaporating pans, filtered and bottled.

The Sutherlands boil the sap in one pan, adding more as the level drops until they have boiled down ten to twelve gallons of sap. During boiling the sap must be skimmed of foam. When the level drops to a little more than a quart remaining, the boiling syrup is filtered through clean wool or linen cloth into a four-quart saucepan and taken into the house to be finished on the kitchen stove.

When the temperature reaches approximately 219 degrees or seven degrees above the boiling point of water, the finished product is poured into hot sterilized jars and sealed immediately.

Experienced sugar makers can tell by the bubbles but a hydrometer may be used for more certainty. Standard density for maple syrup is eleven pounds to the gallon. Thinner, it will not keep well; if much thicker, it tends to form rock candy in the container.

While most of the Sutherlands sap is made into syrup, it can be made into maple sugar or fudge. One of their favorites is "jack wax" made by boiling two cups of finished syrup to a temperature of 234 degrees Fahrenheit. The syrup is then poured over snow in a bowl and served with a fork to twirl the wax.

If a visitor to the Sutherlands could have been here in earlier years of this century, he could have driven his horse and buggy past several sugar bushes within a few miles in Superior and Salem townships including the editor's grandfathers.

Forester McFarland says that the greatest concentration of beech-maple forest is in the northeast part of the county and extends into Wayne and Oakland counties but that there are pockets of maple widely scattered around Ann Arbor, Saline and other parts of the county.

To the editor's knowledge at least six or seven farms on or within half a mile of Joy Road between Vorhies and Curtis Roads operated sugar bushes in earlier years. Some boiled outdoors in large cauldron kettles, others in evaporators outside or in sugar houses.

One of these families was the Bolgoses who moved to Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, in the 'teens and continued to produce syrup there until the land was subdivided and their sugar house badly vandalized.

Other large producers were the Strangs on Cherry Hill Road and Ed Conklin on Gotfredson Road who had 900 trees.

The editor's grandfather, Henry Brinkman, sold syrup to various customers including Chubb's and Freeman's student boarding houses in Ann Arbor for $1 a gallon. The going price this year is $13-14 a gallon.

The Brinkman Sugar Bush operated commercially into this decade. Charles Cole of 6690 Tower Road, Salem twonship, continues to make syrup.

SALINE SEEKS PICTURES

The Saline Area Historical Society wants to continue adding to its photographic archives and is appealing to all persons who may have pictures of the Saline area.

They would like to borrow and copy them without harm to the original and at no cost to the owner. Dan Lirones, Saline photographer and society archivist, may be reached at Film Central Ltd., 202-3 W. Bennett Street, Saline, 48176, or by phone, 429-7332.

COMBINED ISSUE

The March and April issues of The Impressions have been combined and issued in April. Because of uncertainty about the maple syrup outing date we could not be sure of having it out in time in March.

BOOK ORDER COUPON

Please send me _____ copies of *HISTORIC BUILDINGS, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN*. I enclose my check for $4.35 a copy ($3.75 plus $.60 for mailing and tax) totaling $ _____. Please make checks and money orders payable to Ann Arbor Historical Foundation—Historic Buildings.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mail to: Ann Arbor Historical Foundation—Historic Buildings, 312 S. Division St., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Chelsea Area Historical Society— The society will sponsor a young CETA trainee, Darryl Flugg, in a photography project, "Places and Faces of Chelsea, 1978". He will be paid by the government to take 600 to 1,000 pictures which will be available to the society for their use. The society is also conducting a membership drive.

The next meeting will be at 8 p.m. Monday, May 8, at the McKune Memorial Library.

Dexter Area Historical Society — Several new exhibits will greet visitors to the Dexter Historical Museum this month. Several local family Bibles and family pictures will be on display through May. The display committee has also developed three permanent "room" displays — an old fashioned doctor's office, a farm tool room and a child's bedroom. They expect to add some old dental supplies to the doctor's room.

The museum is now open from 1 to 3 p.m. every Tuesday and the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. It will also be open Sunday, May 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. for heritage day of Michigan Week.

Manchester Area Historical Society — Meeting 8 p.m. Monday, April 24, at the Methodist Church. Three Michigan State University students have obtained federal funding to conduct a study of Manchester historical sites this summer.

Milan Historical Society — 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday of every month at Milan Community House.

Salem Historical Society — Annual fashion show and luncheon from noon to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, at Salem Township Hall. Members will model fashions from the Claire Kelly Shop of Northville and Diamond Lil's Salon of South Lyon will do hair fashions. Tickets at $3 each are available at both shops or by telephoning President Elsie Manson at South Lyon 437-3678. Last year's was a sell-out so they recommend advance reservations.

The township board has promised the society use of a house next to the town hall after township offices, now there, move into the new fire hall under construction. The society is looking forward to having a place to collect and store things.

Saline Historical Society — Meets 8 p.m. on third Tuesday of each month at Saline High School library.

Ypsilanti Historical Society — Special museum exhibits for April are "Fashions of Yesterday" and paperweights. The fashions from the museum's own collection include an 1860 night dress, wedding dress, early 1900's tea dresses and "flapper" fashions of the 1920's.

The paperweights, not antique with one exception, have been collected by Archivist Dottie Disbrow on European travels and by Harriet Stewart. The museum is open from 2 to 4 p.m. each Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

In May the museum will observe Michigan Week and also have a program on Panama at a membership meeting from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 21 at the museum. The speaker, who is a volunteer guide at the museum, is Mrs. Ruth Brown, 87, who taught in Panama in 1914-15 and was married there. The program is to be non-political.

JEFFERSON, DR. RUSH PREFERRED MAPLE SUGAR TO SLAVE-MADE CANE

Thomas Jefferson and Dr. Benjamin Rush, much preferred maple sugar to slave-made cane.

Jefferson purportedly used no other sugar than maple and planted an orchard of maples on his farm in Virginia. Dr. Rush, the best-known physician of his time on the American continent and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, thought the sugar maple tree a gift "from a benevolent Providence."

Dr. Rush wrote to Jefferson, "Cases may occur in which sugar may be required in medicine or in diet, by persons who refuse to be benefitted even indirectly from the labor of slaves. In such cases the innocent Maple Sugar will always be preferred."

From The Maple Sugar Book, 1970, by Helen & Scott Nearing.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEETING
8 o'clock
April 27,1978
THURSDAY
Liberty Hall

Great Lakes Federal Savings
Liberty at Division

Miss Eileen Harrison
322 E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Mi. 48197